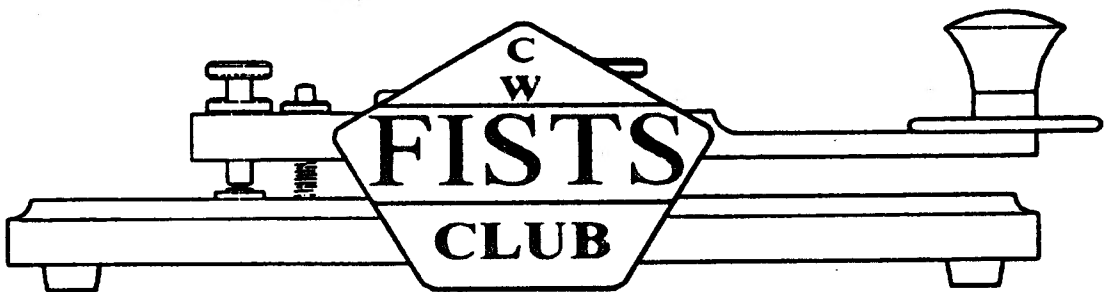


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I...?

...**JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 18 = \$10/year. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge—only one newsletter is mailed per household. **FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440**

...**RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** (\$10/year for under 18) to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047.

Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!!

...**SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a FISTS brochure, send an email to Joe Pardue, at <w5os@arrl.net> with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are also on the FISTS Webpage.

... **ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, WO8E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches are SOLD OUT; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only**, \$9.00. Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00. Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices **DO** include Priority postage.

... **GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to cover costs to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are also available on the FISTS Web page.

...**Join the FISTS On-Line Email List?** For periodic Email updates on FISTS activities and information, send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Brian LaFontaine, W8BL, at his Email address: blafont@tir.com

...**GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Stan Reas, K4UK, runs the Buro. Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to him at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

...**SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...**APPLY FOR An OPERATING AWARD?** To apply for ALL AWARDS send a list of contacts (call, FISTS#, qth, date, band and power) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitán Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Don't submit QSLs*. There is no charge to FISTS members for the awards, but SASEs are appreciated. Dennis handles ALL AWARDS now, do not send logs to England.

... **VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** Write to Terry Lohrey, 115 Meadowview Dr, Taylorsville KY 40071 or email <tllohrey@kih.net>. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page.

...**GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...**GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

...**FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

...**SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at KK4KF@LizardCop.com

...**ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

...**ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann, W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd., Medford, NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

...**IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests! The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**

The Key Note

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C
USA and DX member news and activities

Issue 2, 2002

Hi FISTS! We're short of space this month. I want to put in a log form for the Anniversary Award in this issue, and it's 7 pages long. But, I think it will be worth it, since there are a lot of FISTS who will be working toward the award and this should make it much easier. "Thank you" to Lee N7NU for creating it and sending it to me.

I hope delivery on this issue is better than it was on Issue 1. I am getting reports of it still being delivered as this issue is going to press, the middle of February. We have 2 corrections to make, there will probably be more as more people get their copies - there always are:
AA4Z Bruce 6643 was mistakenly listed as AA4AZ.

W6GP Lyman 5677 was accidently omitted

Welcome to the New FISTS

Number	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8640	N2WFN	EUGENE	NJ	
8641	KC0KOC	STEVE	MN	WB2FXK
8642	AA3WI	JOHN PAUL	MD	K3NY
8643	W5EJ	ED	NM	
8644	N5WN	CARL	TX	
8645	KG4NJT	RON	FL	
8646	KG4MMY	GREG	AL	
8647	W4MJT	FURMAN	NC	
8648	ND2T	TOM	CA	
8649	NF6Q	FERNANDO	CA	
8650	AE4DT	JIM	GA	
8651	AA7IR	RICHARD	ID	K7ZPE
8652	WB6BWZ	MATT	GA	
8653	N5KIP	DICK	LA	W5YSM
8654	N3MRA	SETH	VA	N4ST
8655	N7ODM	BOB	MT	
8656	N9IK	THOR	IL	W9EM
8657	KC8SEV	DENNIS	OH	WB0CFF
8658	KG6JAT	KEN	CA	Pam
8659	VE1NB	BRUCE	NS	VE1RO
8660	WW2X	HARRY	CT	W4NKP
8661	AD5GR	JIM	TX	KB1DLV
8662	KC9XJ	DON	WI	

8663	K3TEL	ARNOLD	MD	
8664	KG6IHV	MIKE	CA	
8665	N6KBS	GEOFF	CA	
8666	N5PA	ALAN	MS	WB2FXK
8667	N8TJE	TED	OH	KK4BE
8668	KC9ARN	ELLEN	IL	N9BOR
8669	WB9EDP	HARRY	IL	N9BOR
8670	K9QAG	ERNIE	IL	K4PTU
8671	KN9X	DAN	IL	
8672	N1YZV	BRAD	VT	N1VWD
8673	KA3QBB	DAVE	MD	
8674	WB9UKQ	BOB	WI	NU9P
8675	KC7EQW	Imperial Valley	NC	WB7RHT
8676	WB2TOF	RONALD	NJ	K8HBI
8677	WA8IWK	AL	MI	
8678	W1UVJ	LARRY	FL	KA1DDB
8679	KB5EAZ	TED	TX	NU7T
8680	WW5E	CRAIG	TX	
8681	W8LOG	PETE	NC	K4UK
8682	WA2NYR	BILL	MS	KB1EKD
8683	W8LTX	TOM	FL	
8684	KG4NNN	DOUG	FL	AF4BI
8685	WD7Z	DAVE	NM	
8686	K7KJ	GREG	OR	KS7J, K7ZPE
8687	KM8L	JOE	MI	WZ8C
8688	KB6MMS	RICK	CA	
8689	KB3HAX	JERRY	PA	
8690	WB2TQC	JOHN	NY	K4PTU, and -
8691	W3JGS	JOHN	PA	WB5RYB, AA1KS
8692	W9MQN	JIM	WI	NB7Q
8693	K8EME	LUIS	MI	AA1NV
8694	W9TUD	PHIL	IL	
8695	KG6DSV	DOUG	CA	
8696	NS1IW	SANDY	MA	
8697	AC7QG	PAUL	ID	
8698	K1TMD	PETE	NH	
8699	WB2SXY	BILL	NY	
8700	W6OI	10-10	MI	W8III
8701	WA4CMV	RON	VA	
8702	KK6DW	NORMAN	CA	WZ8C
8703	AA2AF	JOHN	NJ	
8704	KJ7KL	PEN	AZ	

Award News From K6DF, WoFAM
(World FISTS Award Manager)

As you can see from the "Reference" issued of the Keynote there are two new awards just to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of FISTS CW Club during 2002. The 15th Anniversary 150 and the 15th Anniversary 300 awards will not be easy to obtain. Contacts only made during 2002 will be accepted for the awards.

In this issue of the Keynote you will find a list of FISTS awards that were issued since the last Keynote. Lots of Century awards and only two Rag Chewers' awards. I urge the membership to get out there and start Chewing the Rag, ... let's see some loose threads and frayed edges and more applications for the FISTS Rag Chewers' Club! RCC should be an easy one to get.

Remember that you can send in your application and log for any FISTS award via e-mail. I prefer Excel and Word files, but a plain old text file will also do very nicely. You can e-mail your award log as an attachment to the following e-mail address: FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com

When you apply for an award, state which award you are applying for, include your mailing address, call, FISTS number, and please send the entire log for that award. Example; if you hold the Silver and are going to apply for the Gold award, send your log with all the QSO's for all 500 points for the Gold. DO NOT send just an additional log of 250 points. I do not have the paper logs you sent to the previous awards manager, nor do I keep paper logs sent in for awards. I need the complete log for the award of which you are applying so I can do a complete check of the log for dupes and missed points. Which bring up the next item ...

Please, carefully check your logs over for duplicate contacts BEFORE sending it in for an award. I have received logs that have had too many duplicate QSO's and do not qualify for the award. I have to return them to the applicant asking that they add the necessary contacts to qualify for the award. I check the logs submitted very carefully for not only duplicate FISTS numbers and

call signs, but also for missed points. Many times I find extra points that the applicant missed, such as a club station or points not claimed for Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska as DX.

There is NO fee or charge for paid up FISTS members applying for club awards. This includes all FISTS DX stations. DO NOT send any money with your paper award application. The North American Chapter of the club is paying for the costs of the awards program. If you would like to contribute, you can send two first class postage stamps with your paper log ... or ... you can remember to renew your club membership and remain a paid up member of the club.

OK, ... time to get out there and start pounding the brass for that RCC, C U on the air ... 73
Dennis K6DF

Latest List of Award Achievers
Calls are in alphabetical order for each Award

BASIC CENTURY CERTIFICATE
(this is the number used as your CC Number)

9A4MF	K9XL	W1GUE
9A5FM	KB3CVO	W3ZMN
AA0YY	KB3GKY	W7DO
AA9WK	KC0GGN	W8DAN
AK7O	KE4HBE	WA4CIT
G0TNU	KM5GM	WA9FET
G3LIK	KM5N	WA9YYF
GI4CFQ	M0CGO	WD1V
GM4ELV	N0BLU	WK2T
K2MKX	N1VS	WM4Q
K4JIF	N3QLA	WU3H
K4KSR	OH2CF	XE2IAT
K5DP	OH7QR	ZL1MAD
K5JNX	UA6JD	ZL2AP
K6SCY	VA3ROM	
K8MIA	VE2ARZ	

SILVER	K8CI	W1AWW
9A2HF	KB9SRI	W3HK
AA0YY	KC0JKD	W7DO
G4AQZ	KD5GRF	WA3GNW
HB9CHE	KG9LZ	WB6QQR
K0EVE	KO6QZ	WP4IZQ
K1TCI	N5YFC	WW1AW
K4FFF	UA6JD	XE2IAT
K4IA		ZL2TX

GOLD AWARD

9A2HF	UA6JD
K4IA	W1AWW
K9PL	WB0ZES
K9TJL	WW1AW
KG9LZ	ZL2TX

DIAMOND AWARD

9A2HF	KB8OMG
9A2WJ	KG4AZU
9A3SM	UA6JD
K4IA	

PLATINUM AWARD

9A2HF	KC0JKD	
AE2L	KD5GRF	W7DO
K0EVE	KO6QZ	WA3GNW
K1TCI	KO6TQ	WU3H
K3WWP	N3QLA	
K4FFF	N5YFC	
ZL2TX	UA6JD	

PLATINUM 250

9A2HF	9A3SM	K6DF	N4GM
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PLATINUM 500 AWARD

KU0S	SV1DLS
------	--------

1 WAY QRP AWARD

K4YKI
K5JNX
K8MIA
K9JXW
VA3ROM

MOBILE AWARD

KC0M
KM5N

WORKED ALL STATES - FISTS

K4FFF	W4FCR
KG9LZ	WA7CS
KN2GSJ	WB0CFF
KO6QZ	WB0PYF
N4ZMP	

RCC AWARD

KB2E	KX8CW
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MILLENNIUM AWARD

N4ZMP

The Millennium award is no longer available as of 1/31/02.

Rag Chewers, for sure!

On March 1, 1997 John, KC8GCD made his very first CW contact, with Chuck, KB2SWI. John lives in MI and Chuck in NY. They enjoyed the QSO so much they set up a weekly Sunday morning sked on forty meters. When the FISTS Ragchewer Award was established in 1998 they kept right on going. John changed his call to KX8LL; Chuck had changed his to KB2E. Chuck moved near Buffalo for a year from Saranac Lake and the sked continued. John kept the "official" log of contacts — at one point the log was lost! Panic! John loved CW so much he changed his call to KX8CW.

In January of 2002 they reached 100 contacts of more than half an hour — sometimes WAY more — and had welcomed Gary, KB9TUI in IN, into their sked. John and Chuck were assigned Ragchewers Award Numbers 37 and 38, with good-natured bantering about who got the lower number (John.)

Not sure if just two ops have gotten this award in the past, but it sure has been fun. Thanks, John! — Chuck, KB2E

Reminder: The 15th of each month is Activity Day. Make a special effort to get on the air on the 15th.

CW practice available on a disk

Bryn, N4VM, has made a CD of MP3, and RealAudio CW transmissions that he has collected from the ARRL website over the last couple of months. It has speeds from 5WPM up to 40WPM. The CD contains about 500M of files. If anyone would be interested in having a copy, please drop him a note at bryn@pcpractice.com or via callbook address. Bryn has also made these available for downloading at the web site : <http://www.pcppractice.com/CW/>

I promised previously to talk about calling CQ in contests, along with some other details of QRP contesting, so here goes. Much of this material applies to QRO operations as well as QRP.

1. A contest CQ should always be something simple like CQ QRP K3WWP. The CQ indicates you are listening for any station to call. The QRP (or TEST, FISTS, SS, etc.) indicates you are in the contest. Then of course your call, and that's it. If no one answers, after about 3 or 4 seconds, do it again, and keep repeating this sequence until someone answers or you finally give up and go S&Ping. Nothing turns me off more than waiting through something like CQ QRP TEST CQ QRP TEST CQ QRP TEST DE K3WWP K3WWP K3WWP QRP TEST K. Isn't CQ QRP K3WWP much better? You don't need the repeats, the DE, or the K at the end.

2. To answer a contest CQ, simply send your call once, nothing more. Either the CQer will get it, and proceed, or he will get part of it and ask for a repeat, or not hear it at all. Sending something like K3WWP K3WWP DE K3xxx K3xxx K again wastes time and doesn't help matters any. When you call, be sure you are exactly zero beat with the station you are calling. Some contesters, especially in the big contests, use very narrow filters, and may not catch your call if you are off frequency. Having said that, I now add that if the station has a huge pileup, you may be better off calling slightly (but not too far) off frequency. It's something you have to learn from experience, but the best rule is to call exactly on frequency.

3. The station calling CQ now simply sends the call of the station who answered him, followed by the exchange as in: K3xxx 599 PA 1880. You don't need to send TNX CALL UR RST 599 599 IN PA PA MY NR IS 1880 1880 HW? K. I do believe you should say thanks (TU) in contests, but don't draw it out, just the required info, period. If the other station gets it, fine. If not, it is then up to him to ask for a repeat. I find that on

average overall, only about 1 in 10-20 stations will ask for a repeat of my info. This depends largely on conditions, and I will sometimes go through whole contests having to repeat for only a couple stations. At other times when conditions are poor, I may have to repeat to every other station. Generally if I sense the station is not copying me well; i.e. he had trouble copying my call, I'll send my info twice the first time around.

4. When asking for a repeat, again keep it simple. If you missed his section, send SEC?, nothing more. If you are asked for your section, send just that, nothing else. Just send PA. Don't send MY SEC IS PA PA HW? K. Again that just wastes time. 5. Summing up, here is what a good exchange should be like: 1)-indicates stuff sent by K3WWP 2)-stuff sent by K3xxx 1) CQ QRP K3WWP (no answer after 4 seconds) 1) CQ QRP K3WWP 2) K3xxx 1) K3xxx 599 PA 1880 2) TU 599 MD 9999 1) TU CQ QRP K3WWP and so on. Nice crisp quick QSO's which allow for much more time to make contacts.

Get to know the good/great testers, and realize that they will copy your info, no matter what. For example, I know many testers from working them so many times. Even if their signals are weak, and mine will be weaker, I know they will copy my info right away, and I send it as fast as possible so we both can move on and get more QSO's.

Contesting is an art, and the more contests you enter, the better you will become. Like anything, practice makes perfect. So enter as many contests as possible, even the big ones like the SS and DX contests.

As I said last issue, if you're a minimal QRPer as I am, there is no chance whatsoever that you will win the big prize overall with your QRP signal, no matter how skilled a tester you may be. However, you can still have fun by learning something from each contest. Also set a goal before each contest, then do your best to make that goal. One goal I always set when I enter a contest seriously is to better my own high

score in that particular contest. I'm out of space this issue. You can check my web site at www.alltel.net/~johnshan or www.qsl.net/k3wvp for even more about QRP contesting. Perhaps I'll also include some more contesting info in next month's column. Till then all the best. Enter some contests and have a ball. -30-

From the WZ8C Mailbox, a couple points of view

Well, it's just about time to renew my membership for the fourth time now. I've had a great time with the Key Note and participating in club activities. As for the clubs primary mission, the continued use of the Art of Morse code, I think things are looking up.

The local clubs I belong to are experiencing a rebirth of interest in this most original mode. We have had a CW field day station set up for three years and have run CW in the big contests and the FISTS Sprints, and it is my pleasure to say that these events are the most popular and draw more interest with hams and non-hams than do the SSB contests despite less people actually being able to operate. The interest seems to be catching and more people are playing CW than before.

So we've been having a great time on the air, and I hope to work more FISTS with the W4GAC club station this year. I'm hoping to have some new ops ready for the Sprint. Time will tell.

I work ops with just a few years, sometimes months, experience all the time. It's nice to know this habit I picked up in the depths of the last century is still fun for everyone. 73 & 88 Jack Stark KU4BT #6215.

Dear Nancy. This letter is for publication. My # is 2472 and I have been a member since July 1996. I operate CW 99% of the time, since this is a hobby I can't spend Hours and hours on the air and don't expect any one to, but the lack of members on the bands is a problem.

I do what we are supposed to do, and our creed is a good one, but in all my years as member I have only worked a little over 50 members. I stay mostly in the novice bands and refuse to work the chat groups, all my contacts have been done by calling just cq.

All members have courteous, but some times forget that accuracy transcends speed. I know it is hard to slow down, but I thought that was what we were all about, along with being courteous. I can do what a FISTS is supposed to do with out being one and a lot of ham's do. I would have thought by now I would have earned my Century Certificate with just causal contacts but not enough members are getting on the air, and as you know our numbers have increased a lot.

I don't chase paper, but I'm proud to be a FISTS. I quit the AARL when they didn't support CW like they should have. There was no point in supporting them and I'm think the FISTS club has come to the same place for me, no point. But I will always be a FISTS. Good luck to all. Sincerely es best 73 CAL AA8VM

My mail always interesting. No matter what the issue, it runs from one extreme to the other. People saying there are no FISTS on the air; People saying they practically get a pile up when they call CQ FISTS...the only real gauges of activity we have are the QSL bureau and the amount of awards being issued. You can see the awards issued this month in this issue - it will be a regular feature now that Dennis K6DF has taken over the awards and we now have the awards information.

The QSL Bureau handled 5,166 cards in January. Yet, I got a phone call from a FISTS member, upset because he has 35 cards outstanding from FISTS members. Another FISTS writes and complains because he gets QSL cards from people he has worked before, and he doesn't see the need for a card for each contact, but he QSLs regardless.

I won't even get into the controversy of rag chewers vs hit and run number collectors!

Bottom line is, in a group of this size, you're going to get all types. Keep the FISTS Philosophy in mind, take a few minutes to chat, QSL via the Bureau and we'll all be a lot happier for it!

FISTS Sprint Sprint 2002 Results

Great turn out, and look at the DX that took part as well. Hope you had a great time in the Winter 2002 Sprint! 73 Dan, N8IE

ORO

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>Score</i>
N2ED	Ed	2454	Nj	49056
K4BAI	John	2158	Ga	27900
N1LN	Bruce	3525	Tx	27685
AF5Z	Bob	2035	Tx	17028
N9BOR	Michael	4594	Il	15334
VE7NI	John	7935	BC	8033
KC0M	Larry	2528	Mo	7479
N7RD	Ron	2714	Az	7080
N4GM/M	Grant	2573	Fl	7037
N7IF	Steve	3398	Ut	6816
N3RSD	Frank	2411	De	6552
W7DO	Gary	8520	Wa	5336
W8EQA/7	Dan	2469	Ut	5096
WA6RND	John	3944	Ca	5040
LX1NO	Norby	N/A	Lux	4940
N5DUW	Jack	7631	Tx	4180
"K8CI	Richard	3675	Oh	3675
K1ES	Glenn	8292	Ca	3608
WA7CS	Carl	4561	Wa	2499
WL7WH	Bob	N/A	Ak	2198
W8VJW	John	4221	Mi	2125
KG4EMM	Terry	7058	Ky	2080
WA4CIT	Randy	8280	Nc	2023
N2EZY	Dave	7543	In	1792
KG9LZ	Thomas	5769	Il	1744
N7ZN	John	7076	Id	1680
WA9PWP	Paul	2153	La	1649
WB2EXI	John	2760	Ny	1552
WB0PYF/M	Raymond	7986	Mo	1960
F5PBL	Claude	7722	France	513
WD8NVN	Robert	7911	Oh	495
G4PXQ	George	164	England	400
W8GAC	John	4043	Oh	350
K6DF	Dennis	3076	Ca	280
WB2FXK	Jack	918	Ny	231
KD5GRF	Carl	8033	Tx	88

ORP

<i>Call</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>St</i>	<i>Score</i>
KF0K	Tom	8513	Mo	10923
W8TCM	Dale	6800	Mi	8736
W0CGR	Gary	5109	Co	7675
W3IYQ	John	8500	Nj	6931
N9MZZ	Walt	6950	Il	3549
KG4IKQ	Jim	7590	Nc	3042
N7VU	Timothy	6928	Sd	2698
K8JV	Jim	2372	Mi	2451
KC8LTL	Ken	6919	Mi	1734
K8TDM	Tom	7983	Mi	1500
K8CZ	Tom	2360	Oh	984
W5IBZ	Lou	7257	Tx	480

Club

<i>Name</i>	<i>NR</i>	<i>ST</i>	<i>Score</i>
Deming ARC	7500	Nm	29848
Cowlitz FISTS ARC	1900	Wa	12546
The Working Class Telegraphy Club of West Pasco Fl.-	7600	Fl	10720
Flying Pigs QRP Club, Int.	7373	Oh	3440
FISTS CW Club of Florida-	7000	Fl	2430
Pawtuxet Valley ARC	8400	RI	2256
Western New York DX Association	N/A	Ny	2232
Silver State Bugs	5900	NV	738

SOAPBOX

Bruce Meier, N1LN, TX FISTS# 3523
Another great time. Conditions were better and participation was up-including DX.

Dan Farwell, W8EGA, UT FISTS# 2469
20 minutes after the start the inlaws came to visit.
After that it was steal what operating time I could.
Still fun after all these years.

---- continued on next page ----

Steve Lybarger, W7FST, NV FISTS# 5900
Thank you Dan for the HARD work! Good health to you this winter. 73 Steve

Ron Smith, N7RD, AZ FISTS# 2714
Wonderful Sprint, met so many great folks & 10 meters was busy for a change. Love to see us use 10 as much as possible.

John Underwood, W8GAC, OH FISTS# 4043
had to work 15 mtrs. 40 Dipole went open on me; but I added some new stakes!

Bob Prescott, WL7WH, AK It was very enjoyable and pleasant to make contacts there were easy to copy and everyone spent the extra time to be curious, and friendly..I look forward to the next one.

Jack Slocum, WB2FXK, NY FISTS# 918
Worked about 10 1hr early. UTC clock was an hour fast. Fell off a shelf and must have jumped, hour. HI Then had to leave at 1800z to go to Grandson's Hockey game. Maybe next time, I say every time. HI HI

Terry Lohrey, KG4EMM, KY FISTS# 7058
Was only able to work 2 of the 4 hours due to other commitments. Seemed like reasonable conditions. Using old Kenwood TS-520s @ 100 watts to a ground mounted multiband vertical. Lots of fun and looking forward to the next one in February.

Tom Mihelich, K8TDM, MI FISTS# 7983
This was my first FISTS contest and I just had a blast! The 15 mete band was just fantastic! Oh well, I'm hooked, plus, I got my cc# from this!

John Dawson, WA6RND, CA FISTS# 3944
Hi Dan, Good turnout, enjoyed the sprint.

John Leyrer, W8VJM, MI FISTS# 4221
Great fun-Thanks to all who called!!

Deming Amateur Radio Club, KW7D, NM FISTS# 7500

Dan, we acquired a computer Log for the club and all QSO's for the sprint were entered. How-

ever, I cannot Index logs by QTH and Fists numbers at the same time. Therefore, I enclose two copied of the logs, one indexed by QTH and the other by Fists#/Power. It was a much better Sprint for us than the previous sprint.

Lou Geis, W3IBZ, TX FISTS# 7257
Only was able to operate short time. Antenna is dipole inside my apartment. Don't expect to even place but I thought I'd send it in.

Thomas Dolph, KG9LZ, IL FISTS# 5769
As usual, the Sprint was exciting and a lot of fun. I used a new TS570. After holding 14054 for 15 minutes, it got crowded early, but it was great to hear all the action! I was very lucky to work Tom Dufresne KC0GXX of Lincoln, NE for Fists WAS. GO HUSKERS! Thanks to everyone I worked, and best wishes to you in the Winter 2002 Fists Sprint.

The Working Class Telegraphy Club of West Pasco Florida, K8XF, FL FISTS# 7600
Plenty of new fist members. Good contest and time well spent.

Automating FISTS awards applications

By Bill Cunningham, K4KSR, FISTS 8440
I really didn't know what to expect when getting back on the air after 30 years QRT. The real objective was to get on, make a few contacts, and see if the passion was still there. Discovered FISTS as one of the better changes, particularly the motto! Despite operating as something of a Luddite with a straight key and glowbug with two crystal freqs on 40 and 20, the QSOs began to add up in a hurry. It became obvious that I needed some sort of database or logging program that worked well with manual transcription from paper log. Collocating computer and radio wasn't an option. A search of ads and web sites yielded a lot of products that were too fancy, too expensive, and didn't do what I wanted. I finally stumbled into AC Log, shareware put out by Scott Davis, N3FJP. Scott offers a trial download and the price was \$10, so I couldn't resist. That turned out to be a great

decision, one that got better as Scott upgraded his product and I began racking up over thousand QSOs whilst chasing FISTS and other awards. The payoff came when I approached completion of the Century Club requirements and discovered that FISTS contacts were about 10% of the total entries.

The ACLog data base is easy to manipulate and I had started recording FISTS numbers in the comments field, preceded by "FISTS#". The database easily searches for that string and lets you paste into a spreadsheet. Once there, you can cull for dupes and sort by other criteria. I had done this and was about to transcribe into the downloaded application sheets when it occurred that maybe the spreadsheet would suffice. A quick check with Dennis revealed that this was fine and it would make his searching for dupes a lot easier. Subsequently, I've rearranged the logging procedure slightly to serve a wider variety of FISTS awards. AC Log features a user definable "other" field, relabeled "FISTS," where I record just the number. I discovered that I could use the "County" field to record CC numbers, prefixing them with "CC#" to avoid confusion. Scott says that other user-defined fields are in his plans, but this works well enough. AC Log will sort by the entries in any field simply by clicking on the field header. This groups all the FISTS records, after which it is easy to group-select them and paste them into a spreadsheet with just a few mouse clicks. You wind up with more data than you need for the awards submission, but extra columns are easily eliminated. You will need to add a column for points. The real virtue lies with culling out the dupes and then sorting by CC#, by state, by country, by power level or by whatever else suits your fancy. Sorting by country FIRST makes it easy to insert either 1 or 2 points per line entry. Totaling points is a no-brainer with a spreadsheet.

AC Log has a lot of other useful feature, including free download of US and RAC call book data. Enter a call sign and tab to next field. Up pops address in comments field with correct entries in the state and country fields. You can check out ACLog at <http://www.n3fjp.com>.

Congratulations to Roger N8KV and his wife Bethany on the birth of their son, Paul Scott Cameron. Paul was born in on December 20, 2001, weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 22.5 inches long. Roger says "Now the big question: will he learn some Morse code characters before he walks?" We're betting he will! Roger is one of our FISTS volunteers, he reads the Key Note onto cassette tape for the blind members of FISTS.

SILENT KEYS

I'm sorry to pass on the news of the following FISTS members passing. Our condolences to their friends and families.

Slaughter B. Reed - W4DXB

From W4DXB's daughter: "My Dad had a stroke on Oct 29, 2001 and never recovered enough to come back home - He passed away on Nov 17, 2001. He was in "Radio" many years before I was born (I'm 55) and he loved it very much.
He was born December 14, 1907"

Frank, N3ZOC wrote to tell us about the passing of FISTS Member Nr 3920, Paul.Craig, N3YSI. Paul passed on unexpectedly January 8 2002 at the age of 51. Frank wrote, "Paul worked with us on the Maryland Slow Net and participated in our traffic handling training program. Had several very good qso's (including a few on SSB) with Paul. Will sorely miss him."

Howard Ayers, AA7XQ, #3103, a FISTS member since 1997 passed away last July after a long journey through Alzheimers. He is survived by his wife Marion, AE7MA, #3102.

Carl A. Emerson, W2RWH, Fists #3409, good friend of Dan W8EQA passed away on January 19, 2002.

Kenneth Stanfill, KF6YGC, father of FISTS member Kathy, KS6CW, passed away February 12, 2002.

News from the FISTS QSL Bureau

By Stan Reas, K4UK, Bureau Chief

On January 18, 2002 we did a review of the cards for those members who have no SASE's on file. We will be returning to the sender those which confirm QSO's prior to January 1, 2000.

Also, all the cards for members who have not responded to the Millenium Clearout, or to this year's mailout, or to any of our other requests for SASE's will be returned to the sender.

The cards we return will have a Post-It note on it reading:

RETURNED
NO SASE's in
FISTS Bureau

We are sending these cards back so that the members who sent them will know they did not get delivered. They can then decide whether to send the cards direct or to just throw them away.

Some members may get quite a batch of returned cards. Probably because they may have assumed the member they sent them to did use the FISTS QSL Bureau.

So, please remember if you wish to exchange QSL cards with a FISTS member through the Bureau please confirm during your QSO that they will QSL via the Bureau. By doing so you can know that they probably have SASE's on file.

If you don't do so, the member may not use the Bureau and your card will just sit here in a sort box and not go anywhere!

Or, alternatively you can check List 1 on the FISTS QSL Bureau web page <www.qsl.net/w4fc/fists/fist.html> to determine if the member does have or has had SASE's on file at the Bureau.

As you probably know, the Postal Service is raising the rate to 37 cents in June. We do have a "stamp kitty" at the Bureau. We will use stamps from the kitty to add postage to existing SASE's. And, of course we would appreciate your reimbursing the kitty.

We will continue to list on the web pages those members for whom we have cards on hand but no SASE's. Periodically traffic messages or Emails are originated by members of FISTS and sent to the members on the List.

When in response to these messages you send SASE's in, please indicate whether you want us to send the cards we have on hand or to wait until we get enough for the postage - generally 7 cards for one ounce postage (Presently 34 cents).

We try to remove your call from these lists just as soon as we receive SASE's from you. But sometimes it is a few days until the up-date is posted. But if you have questions about whether we have received your SASE's, just send an Email: stanreas@rev.net. OR k4uk@arrl.net

Please remember to put your Call in BIG letters in the upper left-hand corner of your SASE. Also, we do prefer the #10 Business Size envelope: 4-1/8" x 9-1/2"

Tips on how to save money using the FISTS QSL Bureau from the QSL Bureau's web page

Here are a few suggestions on how use the Bureau more economically.

1.) Send at least 7 cards in each envelope you mail to the Bureau. Depending upon the weight of the card stock used for your QSL, you may be able to send up to 11 cards for 34 cents postage. Make a trip to your Post Office with some of your cards and have them weigh one envelope and your cards to determine how many make up one ounce.

2.) Use the 23 cent stamp! Both for mailings to us and for SASE's you supply. Whereas it may be easier to just put two 34 cent stamps on an SASE, we can still only send 2 ounces worth of cards for the 68 cents postage - that's about 15 cards. So your per card cost is about the same as with two SASE's each with 34 cents postage.

3.) You can generally send three #10 envelope SASE's for 34 cents postage. You don't need 68 cents postage on the envelope containing three SASE's. The envelopes can be folded in thirds to fit in the enclosing #10 envelope.

4.) If you want us to wait for more than 7 cards before mailing and can't get the 23 cent stamps, send your SASE's with 34 cent stamps on each and some loose 34 cent stamps. I can put 23 cent stamps from our "stamp kitty" on each of your SASE's for a total of 57 cents postage making them good for 15 cards. But DO INCLUDE a note telling me that's what you want to do.

For Example: If you want us to wait for 15 cards before mailing, send three SASE's, each with a 34 cent stamp on them, and two loose 34 cent stamps, I will put a 23 cent stamp on each of the three envelopes and we'll get 1 cent from our stamp kitty.

5.) If you put three 34 cent stamps on your SASE's, we assume you want us to wait until we get 11 cards before mailing, since \$1.02 postage (plus a 1 cent stamp) will handle 4 ounces. If that's not what you want us to do, please include a note telling us what you do want.

6.) Another good reason to use the 23 cents stamp is because of the postage rate steps. One ounce does require 34 cents postage, but two ounces requires only 57 cents postage, 23 cents more. And, three ounces requires only 80 cents postage, again only 23 cents more. The 23 cents per ounce continues on up - That is: \$1.03 for 4 ounces, \$1.26 for 5 ounces, Etc.

7.) If you use 34 cents per SASE (7 cards), the per card cost is 4.85 cents. If you use 57 cents per SASE (15 cards), the per card cost is down to 3.8 cents. For 80 cents per SASE (23 cards), the per card cost is 3.47 cents. And, for \$1.03 per SASE (31 cards), the per card cost is 3.32 cents. Another reason to use 23 cent stamps!

8.) Often we receive only one card for a "DX" member in an incoming envelope. That is some savings over mailing the card direct, 34 cents versus 80 cents. But I do not make immediate mailing of your card to the DX member via the DX FISTS QSL Bureaus. -

My mailings are periodic to Chuck, M0AVW for everywhere but VK/ZL and to Ralph, ZL2AOH for VK/ZL. These chaps handle distribution of cards to our DX members. Generally mail to them goes out about every 10 days.

Average cost of mailing cards to Chuck in England has been 4.5 cents per card, and average cost of mailing cards to Ralph in New Zealand has been 8.4 cents.

9.) Costs for overseas mailing come from donations made by our members. So far we are in the black, due to the generous donations from some 300 of our members. Your contributions are always welcome!

10.) All of the above is for our U.S. members. Generally our Canadian members and other members on this side of the Atlantic send us SASE's and U.S. dollars. The postage rate steps for mailing to Canada is somewhat similar, except the first ounce (7 cards) requires 60 cents postage. There is now no longer any 0.5 ounce increments. The second ounce (15 cards) requires 85 cents postage. The third ounce (23 cards) requires \$1.10 postage.

The Correct Use of Metric.

By Phil Karras, KE3FL FISTS 3117

All too often I see mistakes in the use of the Metric system. I've seen QRPers claim that they were using 5MW of power. Since M means Mega in the Metric system that means that not only was this person not running QRP (less than or equal to 5 watts or power) he was blatantly running illegal power since we as hams are only allowed to run up to 1.5 kW (kilo-watts) of power and 1.5 kW = 1,500 Watts, and 5MW = 5,000,000 Watts. (Just a tad above legal limit I'd say.)

Since I read this in a QRP magazine I'm sure he meant 5 mW, milli-Watts or 0.005 Watts True QRPppp? (If QRP is 5W or less, and QRPp is 1W or less, then is QRPppp for power less than or equal to 0.01W?)

Another typo/mistake caught my eye in the 10th issue of 2001 of "The Keynote" on page 4. It says "NOTE: On 2M, MCW is legal ONLY above 144.1 MHz." Well, in the Metric book 144.1 MHz is no where near the 2M band. (Which itself should be 2m, m = meter in Metric M = Mega, but Mega what in this case?) I admit that this can get confusing at time but there no measurement abbreviation in Metric that uses just "M." Now, getting back to 144.1 MHz, those of you "in-the-know" know where I'm going with this, 144.1 MHz is 0.1441 Hz and as far as I know, hams don't even have an allocation below 1.8 MHz (The 160 meter band.) At least not yet. So, if Mike is correct, then we can use MCW in any ham band because all ham bands are above 0.1441 Hz, our lowest, so far, is at 1.8 MHz, 1800 kHz, 1,800,000 Hz. (Even the present test "lower" band is around 120 kHz I believe, which is still way above 0.1441 Hz.)

I believe that the writer meant to use 144.1 MHz, Mega-Hertz = 144,100,000 Hz which is in the 2m FM ham band allocation.

For those of you who do not remember your Metric system from grade school, perhaps you should keep a Metric prefix look-up card handy. While as a physicist I tended to use these prefixes more than most Americans, I too need to look some of them up from time-to-time. But, a basic set that we as hams use follows:

Abb for $\times 10^{\text{pwr}}$

p pico -12

n nano -9 *

u micro -6 (should be Greek letter mu)

m milli -3

k kilo 3

M Mega 6

G Giga 9 *

* Hams don't generally use these.

Lighthouse Operations

From Steve, N8CPA #2904

Lighthouse operation is a blast. My nephew and I operated from the Marblehead, Ohio Lighthouse during the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. In 2000, we worked the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse in Port Huron. It was operated as KD8CG, CG being an appropriate suffix since Coast Guard personnel occupy the lightkeepers quarters

I guarantee a pileup if you park within eyesight of the lighthouse and start calling CQ on 28.030, 21.030, 14.030, 7.030, or 3.530MHz. Lighthouse activation does not require that the station be physically located in, or at, the lighthouse, only within the line-of-sight of the lighthouse. The lighthouse name and the ARLHS number must be included the exchange.

Before you go, send an announcement of your intention to the listbot for lighthouses on the air: arlhs@mailman.qth.net. It functions like a packet cluster. For more information go to: www.arlhs.com.

The FISTS activating lighthouses can expect some of the most enjoyable QSOs and exhilarating pileups they've ever experienced. It would be particularly enjoyable for QRP operators. And, if any prospective LH expeditioners will let me know where and when, in advance, I can send the lighthouse number and I can post an announcement to the group via email.

The ARLHS will soon be offering a certificate of my creation for activating or working 10 or more lighthouses in modes other than voice.73. Steve, N8CPA

Sounds like a great place for a Field Day setup! Any FISTS in Michigan interested in activating a lighthouse for a FISTS Field Day, let me know -Nancy WZ8C

DX Key Note

Written by:

E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd.,
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

NETS

Sunday US: 0100Z on 14058
Friday: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
also at 2200, on highest usable band

DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

GREETINGS

Well, it's over. The man with the long white beard, scarlet suit and wellies has inserted himself into the last chimney for another year and the even more pervasive nightshirt clad idiot with a scythe has handed over the reins to a younger counterpart. Am I happy? Well not really. It just means that I have clocked up another another year on my mileometer and I am the possessor of numerous pairs of socks and a cardigan which was seemingly designed for an orang utan. How did the rest of you fare I wonder? Perhaps like myself there are some serious doubts creeping in about the ability of Santa to provide that which we crave and so have cut out the middle man and treated yourselves! In my case it was a replacement for a computer which has for some time now been finishing near to last place in the technological race. To avoid the pain of re-installing all the software on the Intel III, I simply tidied up an extremely messy hard drive and organised logical menus so I didn't have to go hunting through 50 plus icons, by setting the new hard drive as slave in the original machine. It was my intention to 'ghost' the original drive to the new 60gbyte monster and re-installing it as master in the new computer but it just doesn't work that way. Back to the drawing board!

Boxing day presented us here in the northwest of the UK with the first real snow of the winter. Nothing more than about an inch or so but the weather conditions following meant that for quite some time there was a carpet of hard-trodden frozen snow underfoot. Uuuugh! I remember such conditions in Birmingham as a child but in those days, there were gangs on the streets - all streets - shovelling the stuff into lorries. Nowadays the citizen ventures out at his peril whilst the A&E wards are bulging at the seams with broken limbs. Sumat wrong somewhere!!

We seem to be rapidly approaching the point where the only 'real' radio amateurs left are the QRP enthusiasts. The rest of us (yours truly included) are hardly more than appliance users with little or no knowledge of what is happening inside the flash case. So many of us were introduced to the hobby at a time when a couple of valves were persuaded to do the work of half a dozen and you could safely apply a 50W soldering iron to just about any part of the rig. Nowadays, you open the box and all you can see is a population of rectangular black slabs with multitudinous pins on double sided plated through boards. They work well of course but they hold their secrets from you insofar as an overwhelming percentage of us will ship the rig back to depot if anything goes wrong. I wonder though just how many of these enigmatic lumps of silicon are being used? A goodly Part of the gubbins in my FT1000MP are devoted to such operations as SSB, RTTY and FM - modes which I *never* use.

SWINDLE?

From Maurice, F5NQL, a translation of a statement by Rosy, F5NLO who is High Speed CW correspondent for UFT. It would seem that information has been received from the German HSC (the genuine one it is stressed) which points to something of a 'fiddle' being perpetrated by someone purporting to speak on behalf HSC. Members should be aware of this possibility.

RUSSIAN POSITION ON CW

I understand that the Russians have rejected the proposals due to be submitted at the IARU concerning the requirements for Morse and that their licence conditions remain unchanged in this respect.

Should we applaud this decision or perhaps take the view that without FULL international cooperation, the IARU is not an effective body?

Whatever the bottom line at the IARU confer-

ence, a full acceptance globally of all their resolutions seems unlikely. Certain countries for instance have never even attempted to police the amateur bands or demand compliance with the otherwise widely accepted band plans. We all know from whence wide-band transmission in the segment which most of us recognise as CW only emanate - many South American countries seem to be the prime culprits together with certain Europeans. Look if you will at Canada even, where SSB and data mode operations are permitted in ANY segment of all bands.

SUBS

All committee members were sounded for their approval on a subject which has for some time been pecking at my conscience- namely subs for members who take Keynote via e-mail - with a view of reducing their costs. Whilst you could hardly get falling-down drunk on the annual subs, it is recognised that these people (100 plus at present) save us a fair amount in terms of postage. The figure I suggested was £4.00 and this would be a blanket figure applied throughout the world. I am pleased to report that such approval was forthcoming. Surely in this day and age, more members will find it convenient to go via this route

M0AVW AWARD

Each year, Chuck dedicates a certificate to a member who consistently submits carefully sorted cards. This year it goes to I2VRF. Chuck would like to thank Gian for his consideration which is not to decry others who also attend to the sequencing and thus reducing the workload.

QSL CARDS

I have had 'blank' cards returned to me from a batch of printed cards. This means only that the printer has sucked in more than one sheet when printing. There will still be the correct number of cards printed but I don't always spot the blank sheets which of course are guillotined with the rest. Just why we cannot get a reliable 'one sheet at a time' delivery is a puzzle. It happens sometimes with the laser though usually only one unwanted sheet and that occasionally but I have to watch the ink-jet like a hawk, frequently having to resort to manual feed - very time consuming.

NANCY & THE US GANG

Nancy is home again after her surgery and although she has not yet got the green light on lifting heavy objects, it is expected soon. In the meantime, she has caused a full page advertisement to appear in World Radio hoping to reach a large number of folks who have never heard of FISTS.

She would like to encourage EU and DX members to appear on the 15th of each month - coincidentally, this is our 15th anniversary - and club stations especially would be most appreciated by those chasing the anniversary award.

Although the bands have been a little unstable for transatlantic traffic lately, Chuck's turnover of US bound QSLs is testament to the fact that openings are not as few as may be imagined. I spent a fair amount of time on 10, 12 and 15m calling CQ to be answered in most cases by strong signals from the East Coast so the conditions are there.

HSC v HSC. e.V

I'd like to ask for your attention. Please be informed that there are TWO clubs dealing with highspeed-cw, the "HSC" and the "HSC e.V.". Both were founded in Germany. The first ("HSC") originated in 1951 as a club of radioamateurs who loved doing highspeed-cw on the bands. This club is not registered at german courts (registry of clubs = "Vereinsregister"). The second club originates about 1980 and is registered, therefore the suffix "e.V." = "eingetragener Verein" = registered club at court. There was some quarrel about using the same name and logo, but it is now clear, that both clubs exist in parallel and are not the same (although their names are very similar). Some irritations occurred in 1980, that all members of the old "HSC" would be turned into members of the newly founded "HSC e.V." automatically. This was not true, as courts confirmed. Both clubs go their own way.

Clubstations are:

"HSC": DA0HSC, DL0HSC, DK0HSC

"HSC e.V.": DF0HSC

DOK: There is a special "DOK" = "Distrikts-Ortskenner" issued by DARC - Deutscher Amateur-Radio-Club to the "HSC" which is "HSC" and "HSC50" in the year of the 50th anniversary of "HSC" (see above - 1951). The special

DOK or in German "Sonder-DOK" counts for the award-programme of DARC. The "HSC e.V." (= DF0HSC) pretends to have a special DOK also. But the DARC did not issue it to the "HSC e.V.", so it does not count for any award.

Comparison of fees: "HSC": Entrance-fee 10 DM, no further fees "HSC e.V.": Entrance-fee 100 DM, annual fee 10,- DM

Becoming a member:

"HSC": You have to make some QSOs with "HSC"-members who confirm that you were able to make contacts at at least 25 WPM for at least 30 minutes.

"HSC e.V.": Make a QSO with DF0HSC at any speed, receive his letter by mail and send the entrance-fee.

Membership numbers:

"HSC": Continously

"HSC e.V.": No known structure of numbers

Memberlists: "HSC": Can be found on the internet and on request by email (see end of text)

"HSC e.V.": Memberlists are not published

Contests: The contests in february and november are held by the "HSC". "HSC e.V." does not hold contests although DF0HSC takes part in the "HSC"-contests (don't be confused!).

Contestmanager: The new "HSC"-contestmanager is Lutz Schroeer, DL3BZZ, Am Niederfeld 6, D- 35066 Frankenberg, Germany. No-one at "HSC e.V." is contestmanager so don't send your entries to DF0HSC or DJ7LQ - you won't be on the list then.

This information is given to you because it might be, that you receive a nice letter praising your CW-skills and inviting you to become a member of "HSC e.V.", also inviting you to send the fee. Included are two QSL-cards. They cannot be sent via the bureau, because the operator of DF0HSC and the clubstation itself are no members of DARC. It is not necessary that you send cards via the club to them because both stations do not receive cards from DARC who deals only with cards of its members.

So be alert when receiving a letter and think twice before sending money. More information via email to hsc@darcd.de 73, Lutz DL3BZZ / FISTS # 1640

like most, I find it very puzzling. It was Lutz' intention to place the facts before you however and this is just what I have done.

PROBLEMS WITH AROBAT

Those of you who view documentation via Acrobat and are finding problems may find the following from G3ZPF of assistance:

Within Acrobat Reader (v4) choose File/Preferences/General, and UNTick the Web-Browser-Integration box. This forces acrobat to open up as a standalone app instead of a browser plug-in. Superficially little difference, but it can make a BIG difference to your PC.

Typically, using acrobat as a browser plug-in, after viewing just one PDF file, even if you subsequently close IE (or netscape) the ACROD32.dll will still be viewable under task manager, and will slowly eat up available memory. In tests, one person re-booted his machine and viewed just one PDF file before closing IE and leaving his machine on overnight. next morning there was no available RAM....all 256 MB had been eroded by the plug-in. If you use task manager to end the plug-in task, it is a lucky dip as to whether it ends, nothing happens, or it crashes.

Apparently the problem is not so bad in acrobat 5 because (quote) "it rarely stays up long enough for the problem to develop". W/ton have abandoned acrobat 5 writer and gone back to v4. In reader 5, the option is under File/Preferences/Options/Display in Browser.

There is nothing about this on MS or Adobe websites, and I spotted it in a magazine, but W/ton IT have known about this for a while, apparently. grmmmmph!

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

F5LAW. Yann has not been too active of late but plans to be more so in 2002. Appreciates the 'talking Keynote' from GM4HYF saying that George is doing a magnificent job. **G0EOK.** Paul has had the builders in and as a result, his antennas had been down for some time. The scaffolding was still up when he had a few very sturdy brackets constructed and took advantage of this to fix them to the gable end. Car spares shop turned out to be the final source for 'U' bolts to mount a mast though until the builder

This sounds like a right old can of worms and

has finished, a 2m antenna is his only outlet. Should by now have erected his 80m doublet. **GW0SGG**. Our Bill recommends that owners of the TS930S bring their rigs into the 21st. century by installing the new digital board in place of the X54-1670-00. Reckons it makes the rig equal to most and superior to many rigs on the market. **GI0GDF**. A very dramatic piccy of Altcarry Head with an inset showing the Rathlin East Lighthouse with operators **GI0PGC**, **GI0GDF** and **GI0SRQ** listed. **M0CGO**. In the same vein, Ricky offers a photograph of the IOW light from whence **GX0BAR** was operating. **G0GFG**. Mark tells me that the FISTS table at the local rally was well supported and specifically mentions Glen, **M0AYI** from whom much help was forthcoming. **2E0000**. From Roy and the Scarborough gang an update on their 'novice' station and some nice traffic on the HF bands. Remembering that these guys are running a bare bones novice setup, a response to their CQ on 14.048 from **ZL2TX** was much appreciated. Even more so when after being asked to **QRX** he whistled up a few locals and the log was enhanced with **ZL2AOH**, **ZL1ATW** and **ZL1MAD**. Can't be had for a modest 5W. **G3ASG**. Our Ray is seeking only Utah, Montana and Hawaii for Worked All States. LMK when you get 'em Ray - if they represent FISTS contracts then I believe the US gang do a very nice cert for this achievement. What puzzles me is how the dickens you managed such places as N. Dakota - seems I had to wait around 20 years for my first. Hi. **G4GJY**. Sid embellished his Hi-Mound with the cork from a bottle of Bristol Cream and doubtless enjoyed justifying the move in the process. A nice square cut and a dab of super-glue improved things a lot. If you crave a larger knob then champagne is the ideal route for the well heeled!. Re the DL stations (and others) who sign '55'. Always was 'best wishes and success' I believe though it was shunned for some time after the war as a contraction of 'HH'. Upset quite a number of the DL boys following the outbreak of peace but seems to have returned to respectability. I tend to navigate round it with 'Haben sie eine schonen abend und GL'. Seems to be appreciated much more. Hi. **G3FIJ**. At the date of the letter, (10 Oct/01), his last 12 wpm

Morse practice session on-air was with student, **G7SNO** (Grazxyna). Not had an up-date on this though test taken 11 Oct and result awaited. This is likely to be among the last such exam undertaken. The Colchester club has provided 2m code transmission for the past 35 years and with over 400 conversions and will continue to provide 5 wpm if demand is there. **G4PTE**. Would like to have contacted Angie, **G0HGA**, re 2m CW but represents a (not insignificant) number who have no computer and don't even want one. There seems to be a trend (even by Radcom) to assume the **everyone** has e-mail facilities. Don't think it is arrogance Ken - just a habit we seem to have fallen into and I will try to avoid the trap myself in future. **GI4CFQ**. More on make-shif knobs from Gary who found just what he wanted at his local B&Q - DIY Kitchen cabinets, furniture and etc. Includes offerings in solid teak, mahogany, brass or the ubiquitous plastic in a multitude of sizes and styles. **G0UHM**. Hi Les - we seem to be contemporaries since I clocked my 74th. year this month. Hi. Sold his packet gear and put the PC into FISTS mode to help with Century numbers. **G3OEP**. Our Dave has a hidden treasure there - an AVO Frequency meter of 1936 vintage. Must confess I have never heard of that one but we should all put aside our special stuff. Could raise big money for the family at some time in the future. For myself, I have a homebrew oscillator which doubles as a redskin telephone - key it and it produces smoke as well as audio. Hi. **M0AVW**. Chuck would like to say 'thankyou' for all those greetings cards and good wishes -same goes for yours truly of course. **G3ZDD**. Derek points out that the **G3ZQS** fingers are still giving trouble i.e. the new call for **M5AIA** should be **M0SWL** and not **G0SWL**. Oooooops!

SILENT KEY

G0FUS kindly advised me of the death of **G3BRR** (Jim Leader) on 14th November, whilst in the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, following a short illness. **G3JKY** also brings to notice the passing of **G4IXL**. Bob and Jakey went back a long way (55/57 RAF in Hong Kong) and I understand that Bob was also 2nd op at **G2YY** before entering the RAF.

M5AGL

Bob still takes me to task over the 'ladder' and the choice of days/times. As M0CLO has asked, please let it run and see how it goes - if any changes need to be made for future occasions, they will be considered. The issue of non-members taking part was questioned but it has for some time now been felt that in order to fulfil our stated objectives of 'encouraging the use of Morse', the cost of a few certs would be negligible in comparison to the effects of additional CW operation. Remember that in SKW, Key of the Year may quite easily be a non-member. With your nomination, you are applauding skill with a straight key and I have heard some beautiful stuff coming out of the Eastern EU countries from individuals who are not able to find even our modest subscriptions.

More importantly he questions the issue of the last SKW. As far as I am aware, these details were published and all certs have been despatched but if any-one knows any different then pse LMK and it will be sorted. As most of you know, I have a pretty full schedule here and frequently it is a matter of prioritising - robbing Peter of time to pay Paul - and it is not uncommon for the odd gremlin to visit.

2M CW

G0JJQ FISTS-0851

We've started a new newsgroup on Yahoo, I wonder if you would be good enough to give us a mention in the Keynotes. Info as below:

2 Metre CW NEEDS YOU!.....

On October 29th 2001 Angie Sitton, G0HGA, founded the Two Metre CW reflector (e-mail news group) at Yahoo Groups to fill a gap not specifically covered by any of the existing web based reflectors. Angie identified a need for a forum where Amateur Radio operators, interested in 2m CW operation, could meet and exchange views and ideas, ask for help and post alerts. As long as it's to do with 2m CW then it's welcome! (It's also free and it's fun). So far we have a 23 members already signed up and some lively discussion but we need YOUR support. Obviously there also needs to be on-air activity, so, by the time you read this, we will have started regular 2m CW activity on Monday evenings. Watch this space for further developments!

For more information on this new reflector please visit the 2 metre reflector info page at: <<http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/2mCW.htm>> or e-mail Angie at: <morseladyuk@yahoo.co.uk> for more information.

You don't have to join the reflector to join in the fun but you'd be missing out on an excellent source of information and advice. Please feel free to join in on Monday evenings (20:00 to 22:00 clock time) on and around 144.050 MHz, you'll be made very welcome. New CW ops. please note, if you want slow, accurate CW to get those first few QSO's under your belt and can get on 2 metre CW then this is the place for you. 2 metre CW on-air and the 2 metre CW group needs YOUR support so dig out that key and discover the fascinating world of VHF CW. I look forward to working you on the air. 73 de Wayne - G0JJQ 72/3! de Wayne

Without approval from the lass, I do not feel comfortable publishing Angie's address but as mentioned previously, there are a number out there who do not have a PC so if you wish, you can address any tfc for her via HQ, & I will QSP.

THE LISTENERS

I think that Geo, GSWL2, is our first SWL CC holder and a query re the standing of his reports was shunted to Dennis for info of Peter, G4LHL. The bottom line is I fear - no can claim - you are supposed to work your numbers on-air but it is heartening to know that Geo is not just sitting on his muscles. Peter tells me he bumped into Dennis (K6DF) on 10m from whence he raised the question.

DOK??

Martin, IK2RMZ/DL1GBZ added some info in an e-mail concerning QSL cards which I found interesting.

DOK means Distrikts und OrtsKenner, i.e. district ID and local ID. The info for Martins cards is DOK A50 LDK RA and he explains: *The district ID is A which stands for the former province of Baden and 50 stands for the Murg Valley radio club which has been founded as 50th club in the Baden district.*

LDK is a county code, the German word for county is Landkreis and RA means Rastatt (these codes are also on the license plates of cars). The LDK entry is now standard on DL cards and the

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(politically correct) message is the acceptance of the former Y2 CW club RTC (which issues the LDK award).

DXCC QRP

From Maurice, F5NQL, a snippet of info which may be of interest to the members particularly in regard to QRP:

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the new QRP DXCC Award at its July 2001 meeting. The QRP DXCC Award is given for working 100 different "entities" (formerly "countries") on The DXCC List while operating with an output power of 5 W or less. Standard DXCC rules <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>> also apply to this new award. Contacts made since November 15, 1945, are acceptable.

The award is available to Amateur Radio operators worldwide. Applicants must submit an alphanumeric list of 100 contacts—sorted by call sign prefixes.

Application forms and additional information are available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/qrp/index.html>>, via e-mail to dxcc@arrl.org, fax 860-594-0259, or mail to

ARRL DXCC, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

UNANSWERED

Yup!!! I do occasionally get bogged down and this is just one example because I have a letter (complete with SASE) which I completely missed. Sri Michael.

On the whole, a keyer is a keyer is a keyer - some of 'em have varied bells and whistles - some of 'em have lots of memory, others have an auto increment facility for contest numbering, there are often options for emulating a mechanical bug etc. In this particular theatre, you generally get what you pay for. The criteria is Paddles. You may find yourself happy with a single paddle though eventually just about everyone ends up with twin paddles - got a learning curve but you can be competent within a week or two. It would be unfair of me to specify any particular make - get yourself off to a Rally and get hands-on. You will find small (very small) differences in feel between various makes but with trimming, they can all be made to behave in a way which suits

yourself. If tactile feedback is important choose a pair which have wide tension adjustment but most of us who graduated from a mech bug end up with hair-trigger tension and gaps measured in microns. I know people who are happy using a pair of GPO relay contacts with a couple of blobs of wax on the ends! Rapidly gaining a reputation are those which employ magnets rather than springs even though any tactile response is reversed. In short.. you are very much on your own. Sri.

· FINALE

Apologies to MM, G4ZPY, G3TUX etc. Definitely no space this month but we'll try and keep some for March.

There has been some fair DX recently (even worked Wigan on 15m) though as has been observed, it tends to be a wee bit patchy. Still lots of opportunity out there for assembling ammunition for the various awards.

EU and DX members.

Sri but some of you are just not reading Keynote... This month I have had to return four personal cheques and two Euro Cheques. Although IMOs may appear to be the answer, they still attract a handling charge of £7.00 and since they also cost the originator a surcharge it is a two-way rip off. I'll let you know next month about the viability of paying subs in Euros but in the meantime, surely even preferred banknotes in registered mail is cheaper than some of the alternatives??

CUL

Have fun people - and just in case I do find myself with some free time, I look forward to natters on-air. 73/88 and stay sober de Geo

NEW MEMBERS

8345	M5BRY	Bryan	8346	G3IWE	Mike
8347	OA4CQL	Basil	8348	HA5AK	George
8349	M0ATA	Alf	8350	2E0NPB	Norman
8351	M0DAW	David	8352	SM4ETF	Bernt
8353	G4BEQ	Doug	8354	M0ECS	Steve
8355	M0BVF	George	8356	DF2YJ	Jur
8357	M0DBI	Al	8358	G0KYA	Steve
8359	GX0BAR	CLUB	8360	GM4DKO	John
8361	MW0IDX	Roger	8362	M0BHA	Carlie
8363	G4ASA	Dave			

GX0BAR is sited on the Isle of Wight. Numerous ops.

FISTS CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Local News – January / February 2002

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NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTOR / QSL MANAGER FOR AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

It is with regret and apologies, that John Blake, our representative in Australia, resigned his position during the holidays, due to family circumstances. John, thank you for a job well done, we wish you all the best in the future and trust that you will find time to join us on the bands when you get your new licence in February! Meanwhile do keep in touch from time to time.

The new Newsletter Distributor and QSL Manager for Australia is Chris Thompson, VK2MQX. Australian members are asked to note Chris's details, which appear in the header above.

Chris will receive newsletters by E-Mail. He will then print and photocopy them, prior to their dispatch together with any inward cards addressed to VK members. Any outward cards from VK, destined for overseas, should be posted to Chris, who will forward them to Nigel, ZL2TX, for final sorting and posting.

MEMBERSHIP

All additions, deletions and changes, are reflected in the full membership list, dated 25 January 2001. Because of the size of the document (16 pages) it is e-mailed to all members with access and mailed to other members. From time to time, we also e-mail items of topical interest to members, so if you have not informed us of your e-mail address, please do so.

NEW MEMBERS

VK4RC/VK4IZ-Redcliffe Amateur Radio Club # 9066. – Thanks to **VK4BCM-Bevan # 9053**, the Redcliffe club is our first Down Under club member. We hope that others will follow. Queensland's, first European settlement began at Redcliffe, and as locals will confirm, they found the ideal location. Today it has become a popular residential area, with a pretty coastline including Sutton's Beach (*no connection with ZL2AOH!*) - backed by parks, dotted with pines. Highlights include Settlement Cove Lagoon, a picturesque water playground, and the new Redcliffe Jetty.

The neighbouring suburbs of Margate and Scarborough, have a colourful marina and seafood restaurants. They are part of a 22km stretch of sandy beachfront. The bay side suburbs, of Sandgate and Shorncliffe, boast some grand colonial buildings and early beach houses, that characterise the esplanade and village centre. The Shorncliffe Pier, is the starting point for the annual Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) – 1.808MHz, (80M) – 3.558MHz, (40M) – 7.028MHz, (30M) – 10.118MHz, (20M) – 14.058MHz,
(17M) – 18.085MHz, (15M) – 21.058MHz, (12M) – 24.918MHz, (10M) – 28.058MHz.
U.S. Novice - Sub Bands: (15M) – 21.158MHz, (10M) – 28.158MHz.

FISTS LOGOS

The two, FISTS LOGOS may also be obtained from Ralph, ZL2AOH. Free of charge by E-Mail, or for those who have computers, but no e-mail, they can send a blank diskette and S.A.S.E. for these items.

NEW AWARD FOR 2002

~~Continues from the previous page~~
"Anniversary Award"

To earn this Award, you must have 2 way QSO'S with: -

- (a) 15 FISTS in each of 10 call sign zones (0 through 9) – a total of 150 contacts
- (b) 40 FISTS in England
- (c) 40 FISTS in Canada
- (d) 40 DX FISTS (Non UK, USA, Canadian)
- (e) 30 Clubs with FISTS Numbers.

Each contact must be with a different FISTS member, no matter where they are located. Each FIST member is to be counted only once irrespective of where they are located.

ABBREVIATIONS

ZL1ATW-Matt-9010 kindly sent a copy of some pages from an old Services Morse training manual. In particular he referred to the abbreviations for numerals "used as a quick check for figures already signalled in full and sometimes in place of figures in an all-figure message" Here they are:

1.	• -	6.	- • • • •
2.	• • -	7.	- • • •
3.	• • • -	8.	- • •
4.	• • • • -	9.	- •
5.	•	0.	-

FISTS AWARDS

Our Congratulations to the following members, who recently gained the following FISTS AWARDS: -

(FISTS Award recipients, in alphabetical order, from Sep 1 to Nov 30, 2001)

Basic Century - 9A0CW, 9A2HF, G3LIK, G3WQU/E4 (Palestine), G14CFQ, I2VRF, K1TCI, K4JIF, K8TDM, KA9IKK, KC0JKD, KD5GRF, KF0K, KF4TJE, KO4E, MD0BXX, N3QLA, OH7QR, W1AWW, W3HK, W9FFU, WA1ZCB, WB0LBL, WD1V

Silver - 9A2HF, G3WQU/E4 (Palestine), G4KKI, HB9CHE, I2VRF, K1TCI, K4IA, K7DU, K8EIG, K9TKE, KD0CA, N5YFC, WB0PYF, WP4IZQ, WW1AW

Gold - AA1KS, G4KKI, K4IA, KD0CA, KE6OIO, NP3K, ZL2AOH

Platinum - AA1KS, AE2L, I2VRF, K1TCI, K3WWP, K7DU, K8EIG, KA1OX, KD5GRF, KK6AW, N5YFC, WB0PYF, WP4IZQ, ZL2AOH

Platinum 250 - 9A2WJ, G4PXQ

Platinum 500 - K4UK, WA9PWP

One Way QRP Award - K4UK

Mobile Award - N0MM, WB0PYF

WAS (Worked all States) - KE6OIO, KG9LZ, W4FCR, W5DAR, WA7CS

Millennium - KA1OX

NOTE - NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR FISTS AWARDS is: FISTS AWARDS@attbi.com

(Down under members should note that overseas members going for any of the Platinum Awards require your Century Club Number. For this reason it is up to each of us, to at least try and gain the Basic Century Award, even if we are not avid Award Chasers. There is nothing more frustrating, than to work a member and receive FISTS 9999 Sorry No CC. So come on those "Down Under" obtain the Basic Century, to at least help our fellow members. It's FREE and fairly EASY - Ed)

WEB Sites of Interest

The official site of U.R.E. the Spanish Radio Society, has a wealth of information on their awards with an English version. News of DX is also featured with QSL information in tabular form. This is in Spanish but the information is understandable. Go to <http://www.ure.es>

The Italian Web Pages for Serious DX operators contains a wealth of information. There are several translations to choose from, English being one language. Thanks Gian, I1VRF for information on this site: -

<http://www.425dxn.org>

SERIOUS - OFFENCE !

Recently, an Amateur in "Down Under", a Mr "X", who shall remain nameless, sent two, \$1 American Banknotes in a letter to an Amateur in Russia, presumably, as return postage for a rare QSL card. Of course as any good Amateur would, he wrote his return name and address on the envelope. What is not known, is did he include his call sign, making it obvious it was from a Radio Amateur.

The letter was intercepted by Russian Customs and dealt with under clause 299 of their Customs Code, for not declaring goods moving through the Customs border of the Russian Federation. The report of the incident reads that Mr "X", violated Customs Regulations and was to be made answerable.

The second document notes that Mr "X", violated five clauses of the Russian Customs Code by enclosing and not declaring the foreign currency. The following was resolved during the case.

1. That Mr "X" was proven guilty of the offence.
2. That no fine be imposed on Mr "X", due to his being out of Russia! The two dollars being liable to confiscation. The resolutions could be appealed within 20 days of the hearing.

Of course, no appeal was lodged. Mr "X" knew nothing of what was going on in Russia. The \$2 was confiscated!

Mr "X", has since written, "This is how I became an international criminal! Sadly, since this happened my Russian Amateur friend has not been heard of since, though he did have a health problem. Also, I did learn that someone stole his beam antenna!"

(The above documentation was shown to the President of a National Amateur Radio Society. He was flabbergasted! I must admit that I couldn't believe my eyes, when I read of the above. Apparently by Russian standards this is a serious misdemeanour. The moral of the story is DO NOT SEND OVERSEAS CURRENCY to your Russian Amateur Friends. You may be branded a criminal in their eyes, and lose a Russian friend! - Ed).

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

UA6JD - Vlad # 1385: sent this friendly greeting from Russia: May Christmas bring to you luck...the music of laughter, the warmth of friendship and spirit of love. See you on the bands in New Year. Vlad's e-mail address is ua6jd@mailru.com. We're sure he'd like to set up a sked with you.

DL1CQ - Thomas # 6402 wrote: Hi all, let me take the opportunity to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Haven't been very active lately because of lots of work with a new job. I hope to be on air again some more next year and meet you for a good rag-chew. Until then, take care...

I2VRF - Gian # 8325 reports achieving Century Club status. Those chasing CC numbers should look for me again. Someone asked what 55's meant. Gian advises that this is the German equivalent of 73's/GL. He has been actively been promoting the FISTS CW Club and placed an article in the Italian 425DX Web Site, asking any CW minded Italian Amateurs to contact G3ZQS if they would like to join!

W8OB - Ken # 7242 asks members to please check the frequency you are about to use is not in use. He was operating QRP and in QSO with a station recently when a High Powered Station suddenly appeared and sent no less than 15 CQ Calls before giving his call sign. The station wasn't answered and he promptly started all over again with another 15 CQ calls. He mentions that in the old days of American Land Line operators, they used to check their circuits by sending the letter "C" to ask if the circuit was clear. If you are not sure, whether the frequency is clear, how about sending QRL? (Are you busy?) - (There is NO need for 15 CQ calls - which is ridiculous. A simple 3 CQ's de Call Sign 3 times is all that is required. OK, send it a couple of times and if nobody answers wait a while - Ed)

K4UK - Stan # 2934 laments the number of North and South American stations failing to provide stamped addressed envelopes for their incoming QSL cards. (Come on guys - if you are not interested in collecting QSL cards say so at the time of the QSO. You will save US money on printing and postage, not to mention wasting our time! Remember there are a lot of NEW Amateurs in our ranks both "Down Under" and in the "America's", who genuinely desire a card. So get with it and provide Stan with a few envelopes please! - Ed)

WZ8C - Nancy # 0379 reports that her operation last December was a success. She is now catching up with the backlog of FISTS memberships. I am sure all "Down Under" will join with me in wishing you a speedy recovery Nancy. Do take care and take it easy!

K6DF - Dennis # 3076 the FISTS AWARDS manager has requested that any members putting in for awards list the claim in FISTS membership numerical order i.e. 0012, 0014, 0379, 1071, 9040 etc. He has a new e-mail address for Award Claims:

FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com

2E0000 - Scarborough Special Events Group # 7777 - This call sign is licensed to the Chairman of the Scarborough Special Events Group in the United Kingdom, in order to demonstrate the success that can be achieved using CW, low power (5 Watts QRP) and a simple vertical antenna. The very unusual call sign is that of U.K. Novice Station. This in itself will be unique, as no more Novice licenses are to be issued. If you are lucky and manage to work the Group, you have just earned 3 points to the FISTS Awards as they rank as a club station! Do send them a QSL Card, as these are put on display, for the Public to view during demonstrations! You will be rewarded for your efforts with a nice QSL card sponsored by the "Worked All Britain" awards scheme. (We could do with something similar "Down Under" - This really is a practical way of enticing, would be Radio Amateurs into the Hobby and supporting MORSE CODE! - Ed)

G3LPU - Ted # 7760 (ex VK9PU, VK3APU), writes that although he was first licensed in 1957, he has not been very active until 18 Months ago. He works mainly CW with 200 watts to a not very good WINDOM antenna, which as he says "Is all I can sensibly put up!" Because of this, he is always delighted to work VK/ZL when the opportunity arises.

M0AVW - Chuck # 2896 the English and European FISTS QSL Manager reports that he is hard pressed to get on the air with all the work. He now has several assistants to help him in this formidable task. He hopes to be more active in the New Year once he has freed up some of his spare time. (Nothing like a little delegation Chuck, maybe you should ask the children to assist - Ed)

VK/ZL MEMBERS NEWS

ZL3CED-Charlie-9039 writes: Well, it is almost a year since I have been up and running and I have achieved my one year goal and that was to give SSB a go and then move on to CW which is more interesting to me. I was going to search and pounce this weekend with CQ WW CW contest but due to my telescopic mast breaking and almost taking out a bedroom window with a two - element beam on it, the relationship between "thought shall obey" and self is rather strained.

So I am going back to a wire, until I design or acquire a more solid tower that is away from the house. In the meantime, I am learning to improve my quality of CW sending and listening with Gary Bold's (ZL1AN), PC program. Thanks for the donation that accompanied your subscription, Charlie

ZL4PO-Lester-9044 reports that he has not been very active lately, owing to work commitments but that he is still chasing the odd bit of DX when time permits. He hopes to participate in a DXpedition to the Chatham Islands ZL7 in October 2002, plans for which are underway. (Please keep us informed, Lester - Ed)

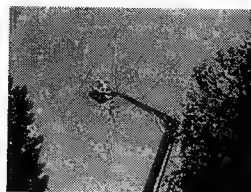
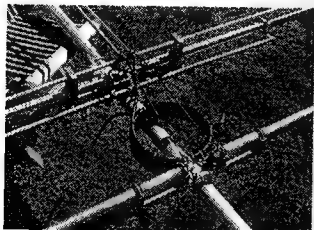
ZL1MAD-Dusty-9051 has recently been awarded the Century Award. Congratulations Dusty on achieving it so quickly.

ZL3HAM-Tony-9015 completes the story about the installation of his beam: The beam is now up. I managed to get hold of a good second-hand TET-Emtrom HB35C 5-element beam at a very good price.

On Saturday 15 December I carefully assembled the beam on the lawn. The following morning, I collected a new cherry picker, from the hire shop, a large 15-metre piece of kit and towed it from Rangiora at about 50kph, for safety. We then positioned it close to the tower, unhitched the Land Cruiser and then set the hoist up by lowering four hydraulic legs first, for stability, followed by a test run. It took a bit of careful manipulation of all the levers, and then it was time, to manually lift the beam, from the garden to the cage and start the ascent. Fortunately there wasn't any wind.

This is where the fun began; I had tied the boom to the top of the cage and held it to keep the elements level (longest one is 35 feet). It slowly went airborne, avoiding all the guy wires with the antenna and the arms of the hoist. I had nearly got to the top, when I realised that I had to rotate the antenna 90 degrees, to avoid the top guy wires and align the mounting bracket. This accomplished, after pausing for several minutes to establish a plan of action, I had arrived at the top with the antenna at the right attitude. The next step was even more difficult. The closest I could get the cage was about 15" away from the stub mast. I then had to lift the antenna (22kg) and hold it against the mast and get the U-bolts in and nuts on! Not sure how I managed it, but I did at the first attempt, I don't think the muscles would have taken too kindly to a second go. In all, a tricky manoeuvre and highlighted the fact, that it would have been easier with a tilt over tower but that's life.

I have attached a couple of photos for interest. It works very well and the SWR is virtually flat across all three bands as per the spec. We look forward to hearing the fruits of your efforts on the bands Tony.



With the demise of Voyager, Tony has a new e-mail address: ZL3HAM@xtra.co.nz

VK2KET-Alex-9056 - writing at the height of the NSW fire scare:- Still have to start working FISTS members, (only 4 so far), due to playing about with the homebrew QRP rig and building a new one for camping use. Had my first DX QSO on 30m @ 1 watt to W5TZC and am thrilled with the mode (you can guess that I am a new-bee).

Fires are slowly creeping down the escarpment behind the QTH, They have lit up the night sky for a week and have finally reached the coast. At night it looks like rivers of fire as about 8 fingers have worked their way down over a 5km stretch. We are safe, unlike others. Nice to be able to breathe clean air again, as visibility was down to 50m for days (and nights).

VK3DBD-David-3756 wrote about a problem we have all probably encountered - Have started the collection of 2002 QSO's with a vengeance, (Nancy's new award). Quite a few FISTS appeared in my log, in the last three days, after a period of relative low activity. I am concerned - and this has been in keynote before- about the tendency of some folk, to think we can only operate on 058! Calling CQ FISTS recently a little lower, a non FISTS str came back and said please QSY to 058 He did not want a QSO! Similarly I can call CQ FISTS on 058 and half the world replies -

David, I wonder if you accidentally, landed up on another net slightly lower in frequency - We really are twixt and between, with other nets operating on 056 and 060khz. I still maintain we should try calling CQ FISTS in a band of frequencies i.e. 14.040 to 14.050MHz.

We would not get the congestion problem of one frequency.

It would give the QRP members a chance to have a QSO without some high power station calling CQ on top of them.

It would encourage members, to hone their tuning and netting skills - something we all need to practice at.

A lot more FISTS members would be able to enjoy a QSO at the same time.

O.K. Folks I've said my bit! I mentioned it before and was surprised at the lack of feedback, (For or against). I won't bring it up again. Promise!

British Commonwealth Stations only, work other British Commonwealth Call Areas - except their own call area.

Note new Start Time 1000 U.T.C.

Exchange: RST/Serial Number starting at 001

G3PJT's Commonwealth Contest Site: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Bob_G3PJT/

R.S.G.B. HF Contests Committee: <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in June 2002, the Radio Society of Great Britain is organising a special contest, to promote contact with stations in the British Commonwealth.

There will be Commemorative plaques for the overall winners, certificates for the leading score from each country and for all stations contacting fifty or more Commonwealth call areas.

There will also be a range of Special Certificates for U.K. Intermediate and Foundation licensees. The General Rules for RSGB HF Contests, do not apply to this event.

DATES: 8 / 9 June 2002. TIME: 1000 – 1000 U.T.C. BANDS: 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz.

MODES: CW and SSB

IARU band plans should be observed. Contest – preferred segments should be observed - no operation to take place on 3560 – 3600, 3650 – 3700, 14060 – 14125 and 14300 – 14350khz.

EXCHANGE: RS(T) and serial number starting from 001.

1. Categories:

(i) Single operator unassisted. Entries may be **CW only**, **SSB only** or **Mixed mode**.

(ii) Single operator assisted.

As (i) above but passive use of DX spotting nets and DX Cluster is allowed. Self - spotting, is not allowed.

(iii) Multi operator.

As (ii) above but more than one
Person may operate the station

In all categories only one signal may be transmitted at a time.

2. Sections:

(a) British Commonwealth.

Work any station except your own call area.

(b) Rest of the World.

Work any station in the British Commonwealth.

3. Scoring:

Contact may be made with any station in a Commonwealth Call Area (see call area list) except those within the entrants own call area. Note that for this contest all of G, GM, GW, GI, GJ, GU, GD counts as one call area, and therefore British Isles Stations (excluding EI) may not work each other. A station may be contacted only once per band, regardless of mode.

Each contact scores 5 points. The multiplier is the total different Commonwealth call areas worked on each band. The final score is the total of QSO points multiplied by the total of multipliers worked.

4. Logs:

Electronic submission of logs by disk or e-mail is encouraged, and is required from all who use a computer to log or prepare the logs.

Electronic entries are preferred using recognised contest software (eg SD,CT,NA,TR). ASCII log files are required, together with an ASCII summary file.

File names must indicate the entrants callsign eg g3xyz.log and g3xyz.sum.

The entrant must ensure that the logging software produces a log file, which contains all QSO data correctly scored.

Logs must show: Time UTC, Call- Sign, RS (T) / Serial Number Sent.

RS (T) / Serial Number Received, Multiplier - claimed, QSO Points.

A summary indicating category and section, contacts per band / mode must be included with a declaration that the rules and licence conditions have been complied with.

All QSOs (including duplicates) must be included, with non – scoring QSOs clearly marked.

Single Mode entrants who make contacts on the other mode should submit these separately as check logs.

Entries can be e-mailed to Hf.contests@rsgb.org.uk and should be sent as a normal attachment to an e-mail. Postal entries enquire from ZL2TX Header above. A S.A.S.E. would be appreciated.

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
USA - Zone 1	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 2	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 3	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
USA - Zone 4	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 5	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 6	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
USA - Zone 7	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 8	1						
"	2						
"	3						
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"	7						
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"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA - Zone 9	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
Clubs	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
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"	27						
"	28						
"	29						
"	30						
Clubs Total:		0	0				
Grand Total:		0	0				

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
USA - Zone 0	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
"	14						
"	15						
USA Total:		0	0				

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
England	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
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"	35						
"	36						
"	37						
"	38						
"	39						
"	40						
England Total:		0	0				

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
Canada	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
"	12						
"	13						
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"	31						
"	32						
"	33						
"	34						
"	35						
"	36						
"	37						
"	38						
"	39						
"	40						
Canada Total:		0	0				

		Call	FISTS#	Date	Time	Band	Name
Others	1						
"	2						
"	3						
"	4						
"	5						
"	6						
"	7						
"	8						
"	9						
"	10						
"	11						
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"	32						
"	33						
"	34						
"	35						
"	36						
"	37						
"	38						
"	39						
"	40						
Others Total:		0	0				

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

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YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL
in the format of year/month/day Are YOU due to renew your subs??

